

Message Text

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43

ACTION OPIC-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 EB-11 AID-20 COME-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 XMB-07 INR-10 CIAE-00 /072 W
----- 027080

R 251052 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8953

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 3348

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: OPIC, PK, EAID, EIND

SUBJ: APPLICATION FOR EXCESS CURRENCY LOAN

REF: STATE 075435

1. U. S. COMPANY PLANS TO PRODUCE SEVEN FILMS A YEAR IN PAKISTAN FOR SALE ON THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET, AS DESCRIBED REFTEL, APPEAR PERHAPS OVERLY AMBITIOUS AS CURRENTLY NO FILMS ARE PRODUCED IN PAKISTAN FOR INTERNATIONAL MARKET, BUT WE PERCEIVE NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO OPIC CONSIDERATION OF LOAN.

2. ALTHOUGH NOT REQUIRED BY PAKISTANI LAW, WE WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT U. S. COMPANY HAVE PARTNERSHIP OR SOME TYPE OF BUSINESS ARRANGEMENT WITH A PAKISTANI PARTNER PRIMARILY TO PROFIT FROM LATTER' S KNOWLEDGE OF WORKING CONDITIONS AND BUSINESS PROCEDURES IN PAKISTAN. IN ADDITION, PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS AND OPERATIONAL PLANS SHOULD BE CLEARED WITH PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT. NO ONE GOP AGENCY HAS SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH. ANSWERS TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS RAISED BY REFTEL KEYED TO INQUIRIES FOLLOW:

A) WITH EXCEPTION OF CERTAIN TRIBAL AND BORDER AREAS, FOR WHICH PERMISSION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL FOREIGNERS,
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APPROVAL IS NOT NEEDED FOR MOVEMENT WITHIN COUNTRY BY
MOVIE PRODUCTION PERSONNEL.

B) ASSUMING THAT OVERALL PROJECT IS APPROVED BY
GOP, SPONSOR SHOULD NOT INCUR UNDUE PROBLEM IN OBTAINING
WORK PERMITS FOR WRITERS, PRODUCERS, DIRECTORS, ACTORS,
ACTRESSES, CAMERAMEN, SOUNDMEN AND OTHER NECESSARY PER-
SONNEL. THIS POINT SHOULD BE COVERED IN PROJECT AGREE-
MENT FOR WHICH GOP APPROVAL WILL BE NECESSARY.

C) AS MENTIONED SECOND PARAGRAPH, FOREIGN PARTNER
IS NOT REQUIRED BUT IS RECOMMENDED. IQBAL SHADZAD IS
FAVORABLY KNOWN TO USIS ISLAMABAD. HE HAS RECEIVED
TRAINING IN EUROPE AND HAS WORKED WITH EUROPEAN CO- PRODUCERS
ON JOINT PROJECTS AND USIS SAYS HE ENJOYS GOOD REPUTATION.

D) PAKISTAN HAS STRICT CENSORSHIP PARTICULARLY
AGAINST SEX AND ANY CONCEIVABLE DISPARAGEMENT OF ISLAMIC
RELIGION. PRESUMABLY SUCH CENSORSHIP MIGHT NOT BE AS
STRICT FOR EXPORT PURPOSES. HOWEVER, PROBLEMS COULD
ARISE IF FILMS MADE WITHIN PAKISTAN WERE NOT PERMITTED
TO BE SHOWN IN COUNTRY. THIS IS A MOOT POINT AT PRESENT
AS THERE ARE NO COMMERCIAL FILMS FOR EXPORT.

E) INFORMATION MINISTRY HAS IMPORTANT ROLE IN
APPROVING MOVIE PROJECT, BUT PROJECT WOULD ALSO REQUIRE
CLEARANCES OF MINISTRIES OF FINANCE, COMMERCE AND TOURISM.
WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY SPECIFIC ROLE OF MINISTRY OF
DEFENSE IN MOVIE PROJECTS.

F) WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT ANY AMERICAN FILM
PRODUCER WOULD NOT HAVE PROBLEMS FROM LOCAL PRODUCERS,
PARTICULARLY IF HIS PRODUCT IS FOR EXPORT.

G) OTHER THAN STRICT CENSORSHIP MENTIONED PRE-
VIOUSLY, WE KNOW OF NO SPECIFIC LAWS REGARDING PRODUCTION
OF MOVIES WHICH WOULD EITHER HELP OR HINDER AN AMERICAN PRODUCER.
DECONTROL FOLLOWING 4/25/74.
SANDERHOFF

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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